

wild turkey (Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. VI, 1881, p. 60). Taking the 'bill' to Mr. Wm. Brewster for identification we found that it resembled most closely the bill of Cabot's Tern, being considerably smaller than the bill of the Royal Tern. It differed, however, from the bills of these and other terns in having a very hard epidermis with a brilliant polish. Feeling considerable doubt as to the identity of the specimen, I showed it to Mr. J. A. Allen, who believed that it was not in his province and suggested that Mr. Walter Faxon might clear up the mystery. Respecting the crustacea, Mr. Faxon, however, promptly replied that it was not a crab's claw. At Mr. Brewster's suggestion I then sent it on to the Smithsonian institution and received the following reply. "Where Mr. Brewster has failed I ought perhaps to be duly cautious in expressing an opinion. Nevertheless a careful examination and comparison of the fragment of a bird's bill you enclose leaves little doubt in my mind as to the bird, which is the Royal Tern (*Sterna regia*). Compare the remnant with the bill of that bird and I think you will agree that in contour the agreement is very close. The cutting edges of the fragment are worn down, and the size otherwise reduced by rubbing, as witness its polish. Due allowance being made for loss of size, and it appears to me that the conclusion expressed above is inevitable . . . I should have added that Mr. — agrees with me." Not satisfied with the identification I let the matter rest and did not, fortunately, rush into print with the interesting note. Two years later, while examining a dogfish, *Squalus americanus*, I was struck with the resemblance of the spine in front of the anterior dorsal fin to my shell-heap bird's bill with its polished epidermis. On comparing them the identity is unquestionable. — CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Boston, Mass.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Ornithological Magazines. 'The Condor.'—The fourth volume of 'The Condor,'¹ for 1902, consists of about 150 quarto pages of excellent matter relating mainly to Pacific coast ornithology. The January-

¹ The Condor, Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club of California. Published bi-monthly at Santa Clara, Cal., in the interests and as the official organ of the Club. Walter K. Fisher, Editor. Palo Alto, Cal.; Joseph Grinnell, Business Manager, Palo Alto, Cal. Subscription, \$1.00 a year in advance; single copies, 25 cents. Vol. IV, 1902, pp. i-iv, 1-148, with numerous half-tone illustrations.

February number includes 'A Trip to Mono Lake. Ornithological and Otherwise,' by Walter K. Fisher (with half-tone illustrations); 'A Study of Bird Songs,' by John J. Williams; 'The Pinyon Jay,' by H. C. Johnson; 'The Crissal Thrasher in California,' by M. F. Gilman; 'The Louisiana Tanager,' by J. H. Bowles; 'The Wingless Cormorant of the Galapagos,' by Rollo H. Beck; and numerous shorter articles, including local records of interest, editorials, reviews, and the official minutes of the Club.

This number appears with a new cover design, by Walter K. Fisher, "typifying the land of the setting sun and its lordly condor." The adoption of three editorial rules is announced, as follows: (1) The omission of "the possessive *s*" in common names of animals and plants, unless a contributor expressly requests its retention. It looks a little odd to see 'Clarke Crow,' instead of the familiar 'Clarke's Crow,' and so on with similar names, but "as the name was given in the sense of a dedication, no particular ownership being intended or implied," the innovation has much in its favor, and this form will doubtless seem natural and proper as soon as its novelty wears off. But we can hardly give consent to 'pinyon' and 'canyon,' etc., although this form has recently acquired a wide vogue, even among writers from whom we should expect better things. (2) The use of the single *i*, in the genitive singular of specific and subspecific names — a very convenient rule, and in most cases a more correct form than *ii*, which is often absolutely incorrect; but the change is contrary to the A. O. U. Canon XL, which requires: "The original orthography of a name is to be rigidly preserved, unless a typographical error is evident." This rule is intended to prohibit the emendation of names, particularly generic names, as the context clearly implies, since the ending of specific and subspecific names is necessarily subject to modification to make them agree in gender with the name of the genus. It is perhaps to be regretted that the A. O. U. Committee did not provide for a uniform ending of the genitive singular, so that we might avoid such abominations as *cooperii*, *gairdnerii*, etc., and *auduboni*, *bachmani*, etc., with either one *i* or two *ii*, as the original describer happened to write; and whether he used one *i* or two no one can ever certainly remember and must verify by looking up the case. (3) The printing of the initial letter of common names in lower case, unless personal or geographic. This may do in newspapers and magazines, and in general literature, but for strictly ornithological works or journals it strikes us as in bad taste, in all instances where a particular species is formally mentioned.

The March-April number contains 'The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher,' by Florence Merriam Bailey; 'Some Experiences of 1901,' by P. M. Silloway; 'Hummingbird Experiences from my Note Book,' by Mollie Bryan; 'Winter Observations on the Colorado Desert,' by F. S. Daggett; 'A few Notes on the Nesting of *Trochilus alexandri*,' by R. S. Wueste; also many 'records' and shorter communications, including letters and the official minutes of the Club; and in addition to these several technical papers. The latter include 'Status of *Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea*

Grinnell,' by Walter K. Fisher, and 'The Monterey Fox Sparrow,' by Joseph Grinnell. Mr. Fisher attempts to defend *carbonacea* against the dictum of the A. O. U. Committee (namely, "Not considered worthy of recognition by name"), and incidentally gives a synopsis of the western jays of the *stelleri* group, illustrating their ranges by a map, and indicating thereon 'areas of intergradation.' While the question is merely one of opinion between Mr. Fisher and the Committee as to whether the degree of differentiation characterizing *carbonacea* is 'worthy of recognition by name,' the paper is an interesting and valuable contribution to our knowledge of just what are the differences between the several races of these jays, their ranges, and areas and manner of intergradation.

Mr. Grinnell believes that Monterey winter specimens of *Passerella* represent the *Fringilla meruloides* of Vigors, whose breeding range is assumed to be the Yakutat Bay region of Alaska, and that Ridgway's *Passerella iliaca unnectens* is merely Vigors's *meruloides* renamed.

The May-June number contains: 'Among the Sea Birds of the Oregon Coast,' by William L. Finley; 'Nesting of the Prairie Falcon,' by O. W. Howard; 'Notes on a small collection of Birds from the Island of Maui, Hawaii,' by Richard C. McGregor; 'Unprotected Breeding Grounds,' by Vernon Bailey; 'A Study of Bird Songs' (Chapter II), by John J. Williams; and the usual shorter communications, reviews, and official minutes, with, in addition, two technical papers, as follows: 'The Downy Woodpeckers of California,' by Walter K. Fisher; and 'The Western Barn Swallow,' by Joseph Grinnell. Mr. Fisher separates the "so-called Gairdner Woodpecker from California" from "typical *gairdneri* of Oregon and Washington under the name *Dryobates pubescens turati*, founded on *Picus turati* of Malherbe," on the ground of smaller size and lighter coloration. He gives a synopsis of the Western races of the Downy Woodpecker, of which he recognizes four, namely: (1) *Dryobates pubescens nelsoni* Oberholser, (2) *D. p. leucurus* (Hartlaub = *D. p. homorus* Cabanis = *D. p. orceus* Batchelder), (3) *D. p. gairdneri* (Aud.), (4) *D. p. turati* (Malherbe).

Mr. Grinnell bestows the name *Hirundo erythrogastra palmeri* on the *H. e. unalaschkensis* W. Palmer (*nec* Gmelin), which he says shows a "significant tendency toward *Hirundo tytleri* Jerdon of Kamtschatka."

The July-August number has 'Incubation Advanced,' by Corydon Chamberlin; 'Vocal Powers of the Yellow-billed Magpie,' by H. R. Noack; 'Some Echoes from the Sierra,' by Chester Barlow; 'Notes on the Black-throated Gray Warbler,' by C. W. Bowles; 'Nesting of the Little Flammulated Screech Owl on San Gorgonia Mountain,' by M. French Gilman; 'Winter Plumage of the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher,' by H. S. Swarth; 'An Unusual Set of Eggs of Clarke Nutcracker,' by H. C. Johnson; 'Notes on the Verdin,' by M. French Gilman; 'Bird Studies in Strawberry Valley, Aug. 25-Oct. 25, 1902' [sic], by Mrs. C. A. Moody; 'A Domesticated White Pelican' (illustrated); and the usual 'notes,' reviews, editorial matter, correspondence, etc., including an extended

review by 'W. K. F.' of Grinnell's 'Check-List of California Birds.' Also a paper on 'The Southern White-headed Woodpecker,' by Joseph Grinnell, who separates the southern form as *Xenopicus gravirostris*, on the basis of its "much heavier bill and slightly larger size." Although "the differences between *X. albolaryvatus* and *X. gravirostris* are slight, and apparently exist only in dimensions, chiefly those of the bill," it is given rank as a full species, and this, notwithstanding the admission that "geographical continuity of ranges possibly exists; but it seems quite as likely that a broad hiatus exists in the vicinity of Tehachapi Pass." This affords another instructive illustration of Mr. Grinnell's criterion for species (*cf.* Auk, XIX, 1902, p. 406). No measurements are given, but the bills of both forms are illustrated by outline figures.

The September-October number contains 'In Memoriam: Dr. James G. Cooper,' by W. Otto Emerson, with portrait; 'The Ornithological Writings of Dr. J. G. Cooper,' by Joseph Grinnell, consisting of an annotated list of his papers; 'A Letter from Dr. Coues to Dr. Cooper,' dated Feb. 21, 1869; 'Some Observations on the Rufous-crowned Sparrow,' by C. Barlow (illustrated); 'The Redwood Belt of Northwestern California. I. Faunal Peculiarities of the Region,' by Walter K. Fisher; 'Status of the Arizona Goldfinch in California,' by Joseph Grinnell (considered as "only an extreme, and by no means uncommon male plumage of the Arkansas Goldfinch"); 'Nesting of Swainson Hawk,' by C. S. Sharp; 'Audubon Warbler in Washington,' by J. H. Bowles; 'A Study of the Black-headed Grosbeak,' by Anna Head; and editorial comment, 'notes,' etc.

The November-December number contains: 'Birds of the Little Sur River, Monterey County,' by Joseph Grinnell; 'The Holbøll Grebe in Montana,' by P. M. Silloway; 'The Redwood Belt in Northwestern California. II. Land Birds,' by Walter K. Fisher (63 species); 'A List of Birds collected in Norton Sound, Alaska,' by Richard C. McGregor (64 species); 'The Least Tern at San Diego,' [by F. W. Kelsey]. A notice of the death of the Editor of 'The Condor,' Chester Barlow; a letter from Garrett Newkirk, and reviews of several ornithological papers by 'J. G.' and 'W. K. F.' complete the number, which closes the year's volume of 148 pages, illustrated with numerous half-tones.

With the beginning of Volume V the editorship of 'The Condor' was assumed by Mr. Walter K. Fisher, who is well fitted for the position, and under whose supervision we trust that the prosperity and usefulness which has hitherto characterized this excellent journal will be still further increased.

'Bird-Lore.'—As is perhaps well-known, 'Bird Lore' is a strictly non-technical ornithological magazine, even to the uniform exclusion of technical bird names. It is conducted on a high plane as regards literary standing and merit, and its two-fold aim is the promotion of bird study among the people at large and the protection of birds. Typographically, as regards text and illustrations, it is a model of book-making, and its

matter, while non-technical, is scientifically accurate, and its methods for popularizing the study of ornithology are devised with excellent forethought, and provide instruction on broad and well-systematized lines. The editor's experience as an investigator, and lecturer on ornithology, and his enthusiasm as a bird-lover, fit him especially for the task of editing a magazine of the scope and purpose of 'Bird-Lore.' The magazine consists of the following departments: 'General Articles,' of varied scope, mostly contributed by well-known writers on ornithology; 'For Teachers and Students,' mostly editorial matter; 'For Young Observers'; 'Notes from Field and Study'; 'Book News and Reviews,' including notices of the leading ornithological magazines, and of the leading papers and books on both technical and popular ornithology; 'Editorial'; and 'Audubon Department,' edited by Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright. In the following notice of Volume IV, for 1902,¹ it will be impossible to mention more than a few of the leading articles of each number.

January-February number, general articles: 'Recollections of Elliott Coues,' by D. G. Elliot, with portrait of Coues at twenty-one; 'Coues at his First Army Post,' by Capt. C. A. Curtis, U. S. A. (retired); 'Extract from Journal of Elliott Coues' First Journey to the West' (from *Am. Nat.*, June, 1871); 'The Western Evening Grosbeak,' by Wm. Rogers Lord; 'Bird Clubs in America. I. The Nuttall Club,' by Francis H. Allen (illustrated with a full-page photograph of the Nuttall Club in session); 'Bird-Lore's Advisory Council' (giving names and addresses of the 63 members of the Council); 'How to Name the Birds. Studies of the Families of the Passeres,' by Frank M. Chapman (a series of illustrated papers running through the year); 'The Christmas Bird Census' (reports from numerous correspondents giving lists of birds observed on Christmas day, 1901, at many widely separated localities). 'For Young Observers,' contains a 'prize essay' on the Crow, by Fred T. Morrison (aged 11). Then follows: 'Book News and Reviews,' including reviews of Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Part I, the 'Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union,' Seton's 'Lives of the Hunted,' and Kellogg's 'Elementary Zoölogy,' by the editor, and of 'The Condor,' by 'T. S. P.,' and 'The Osprey,' by 'A. K. F.' A page of short editorials, and 'The Audubon Societies' complete the number, this latter department including 'A Midwinter Meditation,' by Mrs. Wright (pp. 37-39),

¹ Bird-Lore. An Illustrated Bi-monthly Magazine devoted to the Study and Protection of Birds. Edited by Frank M. Chapman. Official Organ of the Audubon Societies. Audubon Department edited by Mabel Osgood Wright. Vol. IV, 1902. The Macmillan Company, Harrisburg, Pa., and New York City. Royal 8vo, pp. i-viii + 1-208. Subscription rates, United States, Canada and Mexico, 20 cents a number, \$1.00 a year; in all countries in the International Postal Union, 25 cents a number, \$1.25 a year, post-paid.

full of pertinent hints to the over-zealous bird-student, in this author's best vein of 'putting things.' This department also contains a 'Directory of State Audubon Societies,' and the 'Fifth Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Audubon Society,' by its secretary, Mrs. Julia Stocton Robins. There are also two half-tone illustrations of a Crow Roost, near Salem, N. J., from photographs by moonlight, taken by C. D. Kellogg.

The foregoing indicates the general character of the contents of each number. Respecting the other five numbers of Vol. IV, only very general reference can be made. March-April number: 'Voices of a New England Marsh,' by William Brewster (pp. 43-56, illustrated); 'Bird Clubs in America. II. The Delaware Valley Club,' by Samuel N. Rhoads (with a photograph of the Club in session); 'English Starling,' by Edith M. Thomas (poem); and the usual instalment of 'How to Name the Birds,' and the usual reviews and other departmental matter, including a noteworthy paper by Mrs. Wright on 'After Legal Protection, What?'

May-June number: 'The Increase of the Chestnut-sided Warbler,' by A. Radclyffe Dugmore (illustrated); 'The Chebec's First Brood,' by Francis H. Herrick (illustrated); 'The Wood Thrush and the Whip-poor-will,' by Garrett Newkirk (poem, illustrated); 'A Grebe Colony,' by Gerard A. Abbott. 'How to Name the Birds' (illustrated), and the usual varied department matter concludes the number, which gives a very full account of the 'First Meeting of the National Committee of the Audubon Societies of the United States,' held in New York City, April 4, 1902.

July-August number: 'Concerning the 'Bad Repute of Whiskey John,' by Fannie Hardy Eckstorm; 'Nighthawk Notes,' by George H. Selleck (illustrated); 'The Veery's Note,' by Ernest Crosby (poem); 'The Nesting of the Yellow-throated Vireo,' by John Hutchins. September-October number: 'The Destructive Effects of a Hail-storm upon Bird Life,' by H. McL. Morton, M. D. (at Minneapolis, Minn.); 'A Goldfinch Idyl,' by Ella Gilbert Ives (illustrated); 'A Question of Identity,' editorial, answering the question "What constitutes justifiable grounds for publicly recording the occurrence of an exceedingly rare species, or of a species beyond the limits of its own country?" 'A Debt of Bird Students,' editorial,—their obligations to the American Ornithologists' Union.

November-December number: 'On Journal Keeping,' by Ernest Thompson Seton; 'Flamingoes' Nests,' by Frank M. Chapman, giving views of nests *in situ* of colonies of these birds, and an account, from personal observation, of the Bahama colonies; 'The Weapons of Birds,' by Frederic A. Lucas (illustrated); 'Whiskey John in Colorado,' by Edward R. Warren (illustrated); 'Bird-Lore's Advisory Council,—portraits of William Dutcher, T. Gilbert Pearson, Lynds Jones, and E. W. Nelson; 'How to Study Birds,' by Frank M. Chapman,—the first of a series of illustrated papers, to run through Vol. V, giving instructions to students as to how and what to observe in studying birds. 'The Screech Owl's Valentine,' a poem by Florence A. Van Sant, and the usual field notes, correspondence, reviews, Audubon Society Reports, report of the

Twentieth Congress of the A. O. U., etc., complete the number, which contains also the index to the volume.

'The Wilson Bulletin.'—As a popular magazine of ornithology 'The Wilson Bulletin,' which has just completed the ninth volume of its second series (fourteenth of the whole series), fills a very important place in the journals of its class. The Volume for 1902¹ contains in each number from four to eight general articles, various notes, and a few pages each of editorial matter and reviews of recent books and papers on ornithology. Its scope is defined as "the study of living birds";—their habits, their relations to their surroundings, and their economic relations to man. Naturally it is a strong supporter of bird protection and of popular bird study, especially in the field.

The March number contains: 'The Rock Nuthatch [*Sitta syriaca*] and its Nest,' by H. C. Tracy, with illustrations; 'Food Habits of the Wilson Snipe,' by Benj. T. Gault; 'Notes on the Winter Birds of Arkansas,' by N. Hollister (an annotated list of about 50 species); 'A Columbus [Ohio] Mid-winter Horizon,' by W. Leon Dawson; four pages of 'Notes' relating mostly to Ohio winter birds, by the editor; 'Some Franklinville Fringillines,' by 'Franklin'—a humorous skit on trinomialism; five pages of editorial notes and comment, and six pages of reviews. The June number has: 'Bird Studies in Lorain County, Ohio. Winter Studies,' by Lynds Jones (pp. 37-58, with a map of the county), a summary of ornithological and weather conditions, covering several winters, with pertinent comment; 'A Preliminary List of the Birds of Yakima County, Washington,' by Wm. Leon Dawson (an annotated list of 123 species); 'Incubation Period of the Mockingbird,' by John W. Daniel, Jr.; 'A Bird New for Ohio,' by Lynds Jones (*Mareca penelope*); and five pages of editorial matter, notes, and reviews.

The September number has: 'A Preliminary List of the Birds of Middle Southern Ohio,' by Rev. W. F. Henninger (noticed in 'The Auk,' XX, 1903, p. 83); 'The Spring Migration of 1901,' with an Average Table for Lorain County, Ohio, by R. L. Baird; 'Maryland Birds,' by Rev. J. H. Langille; 'Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*) again in Ohio,' by Lynds Jones (two observed opposite Ashland, Ky., Aug. 28, 1902); and six pages of editorial matter, notes, and reviews.

The December number contains: 'The Cuban Tody (*Todus multicolor*),' by John W. Daniel, Jr., with a half-tone plate; 'Some Bluebird Boxes and Troubles,' by Frank Bruen'; 'My Summer Boarders, Season 1902,' by Wm. J. Mills; 'All Day with the Birds, May 7, 1902,' authorship not

¹ The Wilson Bulletin, Published Quarterly by the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association. Edited by Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio. Old Series, Vol. XIV; New Series, Vol. IX, 1902. 8vo, pp. 144, with illustrations. Subscription, 50 cents a year. Published on the 15th of March, June, September, and December.

stated; 'Winter Birds,' by Lynds Jones (Scioto and Pike Counties, Ohio, and Bristol, Conn.); 'An Addition to the Birds of Middle Southern Ohio,' (*Larus philadelphia*) by W. F. Henninger; 'A New Year Horizon for All,' by the Editor; 'A New Bird for Ohio, Red-legged Duck (*Anas obscura rubripes*),' by W. F. Henninger; and ten pages of editorial matter, 'general notes,' reviews, and correspondence.

In the December number the editor briefly reviews the history of the nine volumes of 'The Wilson Bulletin,' forming the 'New Series,' in which he says: "From a small beginning our official organ has come to fill a place in the study of our birds which we may well point to with pride. While the development has been slow it has been sure." This is indeed a modest claim, in view of the many valuable papers that in recent years have resulted from the work of various members of the 'Wilson Ornithological Chapter,' and which have found a medium of publication in 'The Wilson Bulletin'; for all of which great credit is due to the efforts and example of the editor, Professor Lynds Jones of Oberlin.—J. A. A.

Jacobs's 'The Story of a Martin Colony.'¹—This is a very interesting and suggestive account of the growth and prosperity of a Purple Martin colony under the author's protecting care during a period of seven years—1896-1902—at Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. In 1896 a twenty-room bird house was erected by the author in his grounds, but to his disappointment only one pair of birds at first availed themselves of these ample accommodations, but later these were joined by four other pairs, of which "the males were all birds of the previous year." But through disturbances by English Sparrows and other mishaps only eleven young birds reached maturity. The next year ten pairs took possession and 35 young birds "were successfully brought out." The third year additional house room was provided by the erection of a new 34-room dormitory. This was occupied by fourteen nesting pairs, and thirteen of the males being birds of the previous year led Mr. Jacobs to believe that all were from the house first erected. The number of young reaching maturity this season was between 90 and 100, several mishaps having interfered with the prosperity of the colony. The wonderful increase in three years prompted the erection of further quarters in 1899, and the colony continued to increase. In 1901 there were 67 pairs of nesting birds, and in 1902 the annual census of the colony, taken May 28, gave the following results: "Rooms occupied, 72; containing eggs, 50; containing both eggs and young, 2; nests undergoing construction, 20; total number of eggs and young on this date, 245."

¹Gleanings | No. II. | The Story of a | Martin Colony. | Illustrated. | — | Observations on a Colony | of Purple Martins. | (Progne Subis.) | — | By J. Warren Jacobs. | — | Waynesburg, Pa., | Independent Book and Job Office. | 1903.—8vo, pp. 24, and 3 half-tone plates. Price, 35 cents.